

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously presented.) A topical composition for protecting human skin from collagen degradation, comprising a compound selective for the direct inhibition of at least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 being greater than the inhibition of MMP-9 and optionally also greater than the inhibition of MMP-2, and a dermatologically suitable carrier therefor.

2. (Original.) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a retinoid.

3. (Original.) The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a UVA blocker and a UVB blocker.

4. (Original.) The composition of claim 3, comprising both a UVA blocker and a UVB blocker.

5. (Original.) The composition of claim 4, further comprising a retinoid.

6. (Original.) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an antioxidant.

7. (Original.) The composition of claim 6, further comprising both a UVA blocker and a UVB blocker.

8. (Currently amended.) A method for ~~restoring~~ improving collagen and fibroblast proliferation in chronologically aged skin, comprising topically applying to said chronologically aged skin a compound selective for the inhibition of at

least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2, and a dermatologically suitable carrier therefor.

9. (Original.) The method of claim 8, further comprising topically applying to the skin a retinoid.

10. (Original.) The method of claim 8, wherein the application is made daily.

11. (Original.) The method of claim 9, wherein the application is made daily.

12. (Currently amended.) A method for ~~preventing~~ reducing collagen degradation and improving procollagen biosynthesis ~~inhibition~~ inhibited in human skin due to exposure of said skin to UV radiation, comprising topically applying a compound selective for the inhibition of at least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2, ~~[[and]]~~ said compound provided in a dermatologically suitable carrier therefor, and wherein the application is made between 24 hours prior to said exposure to twelve hours after said exposure and in an amount effective to reduce the activity of at least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2.

13. (Original.) The method of claim 12, wherein the application is prior to UV exposure, and further comprising apply a combination of UVA and UVB blockers.

14. (Original.) The method of claim 12, wherein the application is prior to UV exposure, and further comprising applying an EGF-R protein tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

15. (Currently amended.) A method for treating collagen degradation occurring in acne-affected skin, comprising topically applying to said acne-affected skin a compound selective for the inhibition of at least one of MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2, and a dermatologically suitable carrier therefor, said topical application of the compound being in an amount effective to reduce the activity of at least one of said MMP-1, MMP-8, and MMP-13 with respect to the activity of MMP-9 and optionally MMP-2.